

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1.     A display system for use in a communications network, comprising:  
2                   a display device; and  
3                   plural display windows at the display device, the plural windows for  
4 simultaneously displaying multiple content, wherein a first display window displays video  
5 programming content and wherein a second display window displays content from an instant  
6 messaging (IM) application.
- 1                   2.     The display system of claim 1, wherein the video programming content  
2 is a broadcast television program.
- 1                   3.     The display system of claim 2, wherein the broadcast television  
2 program is provided over one of a plurality of selectable television channels, and wherein the  
3 display device is a television screen.
- 1                   4.     The display system of claim 1, wherein the instant messaging content  
2 comprises:  
3                   a personal ID associated with a user of the IM application.
- 1                   5.     The display system of claim 4, wherein the user is remote from the  
2 display system.
- 1                   6.     The display system of claim 5, wherein the instant messaging content  
2 further comprises a program ID for identifying broadcast television program being viewed by  
3 the remote user.
- 1                   7.     The display system of claim 6, wherein the instant messaging content  
2 further comprises a message sent from the remote user to a user at the display system.
- 1                   8.     The display system of claim 6, wherein the communications network  
2 has multiple users each having a display device, wherein the communications network  
3 includes a server storing instant messaging content for display at each display device, and  
4 wherein the server may be used to aggregate instant messaging content from the multiple  
5 users, whereby video programming activity by multiple users can be tracked at the server.

1           9.     The display system of claim 5, wherein the instant messaging content  
2 further comprises a selectable telephone communications display element, and wherein a  
3 telephone communications line is established over the communications network between the  
4 user at the display system and the remote user, when the telephone communications display  
5 element is selected.

1           10.    The display system of claim 9, wherein the telephone communications  
2 line is connected at a telephone device separate from the display system, and such telephone  
3 communications line uses the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

1           11.    The display system of claim 5, wherein a user at the display system is a  
2 subscriber to video programming for display at the display system, wherein such user is  
3 assigned one or more security keys in order to receive the video programming over the  
4 communications network, wherein such user may send an attachment to the remote user, the  
5 attachment comprising a video data file representing the video programming, and a security  
6 key associated with the video programming, and wherein video programming represented by  
7 the video data file is displayed to the remote user only if the remote user has a security key  
8 matching the security key associated with the video programming.

1           12.    The display system of claim 1, wherein a user at the display system is a  
2 subscriber to a VDSL service, and wherein the VDSL service provides telephone, video  
3 programming and internet access service to the subscriber over the communications network.

1           13.    The display system of claim 1, wherein the video programming content  
2 is provided to the display system by a satellite television service.

1           14.    The display system of claim 1, wherein the video programming content  
2 is provided to the display system by a cable television service.

1           15.    In a communications network having a plurality of users and a user  
2 interface device associated with each user, the user interface device comprising:  
3               display means; and  
4               means for simultaneously displaying multiple content to a viewer at the  
5 display means, including first window means for displaying video programming content at a  
6 first display window at said display means, and second window means for simultaneously

7 displaying content from an instant messaging (IM) application at a second window at said  
8 display means.

1 16. A method for displaying content to users in a communications  
2 network, comprising:  
3 displaying content at a display device associated with each user; and  
4 providing plural windows at the display device, with a first window displaying  
5 video programming content and a second window for simultaneously displaying instant  
6 messaging content.